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Nuclear Option

Ricky Walker
Staff Writer

The Colorado School of Mines Graduate Program has given birth to a new graduate degree: Nuclear Science and Engineering. The program is designed to be a comprehensive degree program that will train future nuclear engineering professionals in today's world. One of the largest selling points for the nuclear engineering degree at Mines is that the focus of the program is slightly different from that of other schools. While others focus mostly on reactor design and operations, the program at CSM will focus on the entire life cycle of nuclear technology, or from "cradle to grave."

"It is really an exciting program," said Dr. Greife, an Associate Professor in the Physics Department. Dr. Greife observed that it was especially an exciting field due to the growing concerns of energy in current affairs. It is not too hard to see why programs such as these are appearing—the sum of all CO₂ emissions from generating electricity amounts to over 3 times that of all automobiles. According to some experts, nuclear energy is the only viable large-scale energy source that is carbon free. While it is well known that nuclear energy also has its drawbacks, the Nuclear Engineering graduate program addresses these concerns with required courses dealing with the management of radioactive materials.

Mines is offering a wide range of options including PhD and MS degrees, as well as Minor Programs and combined BS/MS Degrees. The program is accepting applications for admission for those interested in applying. Visit the "Graduate School" section of Mines' homepage and navigate to the "Nuclear Science and Engineering" section for more details on the degree, as well as requirements and application details.

The Nuclear Engineering Program at Mines promises to be road to an exciting and rewarding career for those who are interested in pursuing nuclear technology.

Sailing in the Right Direction

CSM President Evaluates Progress

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

"We had the faculty and staff breakfast on the Monday [before] school started and I reminded people that I was entering my sophomore year as President," said Colorado School of Mines President Dr. Myles "Bill" Scoggins in an interview last week. He continued, "We've gotten very comfortable being here in Golden and being at the Colorado School of Mines, but like a lot of sophomores I'm anxious now to get on with it."

Scoggins outlined some of the upcoming challenges facing the school; "one of the things that brought me here was being able to look at the strategic plan that had been produced. I said it was time for us to stop and do a re-calibration of that plan. I didn't get that done last year and I think that's something we need to get done this year."

The current Strategic Plan was written in 2004 under the supervision of former President John U. Trefny. With a horizon of ten years, the plan outlines seven crucial elements. The plan's introduction states: "With rapidly escalating global demands for energy, technology, and natural resources, Mines has both an opportunity and a responsibility to magnify its contribution to the worldwide community by asserting its leadership position in areas of expertise and reinforcing its long tradition of academic excellence."

Scoggins profiled the nature of upcoming changes to the Stra-

tegic Plan, which includes an understanding of the optimal size of the institution and a realization of how to manage and grow the school's research program.

With a 10-year horizon, Scoggins outlined some important points of institutional growth: significant research growth, expansion of infrastructure, an increase in academic space, and a transition to a residential university with the majority of students housed on campus. "I really think a residential campus is a type of environment that's best for Mines in the long term; it'd help us attract more non-residents, women, underrepresented minorities, and so on," he said.

In addition, revitalizing the campus climate to be more inclusive and inviting remains a top priority. Scoggins added, "I want the campus to be more inclusive. I want the campus to participate more in campus-wide events that maybe aren't focused on their particular discipline area. Our mission here is to educate people that can go from School of Mines into the world and make a difference; that means they've got to have great communication skills, they've got to be able to work in teams, they've got to appreciate the world, the diverse cultures, and so on and you just don't get that in a classroom."

In the past year, Scoggins noted that the school's financial management has improved considerably: "From the administrative standpoint, getting our arms around the finances and budget is a major success." He pointed out that the school has made a transition to



COURTESY MARSHA WILLIAMS / REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION
Congratulations: Colorado School of Mines President shares a laugh with a recent graduate of the Guy T. McBride Jr. Honors Program.

a unified budget approach and process, positioning people to more ably look at the entirety of the budget. "For the first time in several years, the operating budget is fully balanced," Scoggins concluded.

As the school year progresses, Scoggins said that he hopes to continue hearing from students on a regular basis. In considering how best to provide feedback to CSM's administration, he added, "There's always letters to the newspaper and there's always, everybody knows, the 'prez-office' email address, but I

think the most effective [method] for me is through the student government. Associated with the student government, you have Aprill Nelson who is Student Trustee on the Board."

As a "sophomore" administrator at Mines, Scoggins concluded, "What I like about Mines students is that, when I walk across the commons going to the Green Center, they generally aren't too shy about coming up and introducing themselves and telling me what's going good and what's going not so good – I hope that atmosphere continues."

Iranian President Visits the West
Met with Outrage at Columbia University in New York City

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

When Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad began his visit to attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York last Monday, he was met with protesters and dissenting Americans.

Ahmadinejad began his visit with a controversial two-hour speech to the students at Columbia University, charging the United States with promoting terrorist behavior and criticizing the US as hypocrites for attempting to hinder Iran's nuclear program.

"We are a peace-loving nation... We do not believe in nuclear weapons. Period," said the president during the Columbia speech.

President Ahmadinejad has been known in the past to

openly deny the occurrence of the Holocaust during World War II and denounce the country of Israel as a nation of "ethnic discrimination" and "usurpation."

The scheduled UN talks for this week highlighted topics ranging from human rights, global climate change, and, most notably, the suspicions of some nations that Iran has been working on creating a nuclear arsenal program.

In his speech to the other delegates, Ahmadinejad further expressed his disdain for the creation of the Israeli state and his firm conviction that the country of Iran will not recognize Israel as a separate nation, instead calling it an "illegal Zionist regime."

Ahmadinejad then went on to criticize the UN Security Council for its nuclear sanctions on Iran, stressing that

the country had no intentions of creating dangerous weapons with its uranium enrichment program and that its programs are perfectly legal and safe. The President also declared that the International Atomic Energy Agency would be monitoring Iran's nuclear energy progress.

"How long should the people of the world live with the nightmare of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons?" reasoned Ahmadinejad. While he did not explicitly criticize the United States or call it by name, Ahmadinejad expressed his disrespect for US overseas policy.

"Some [nations] seek to rule the world relying on weapons and threats," argued the Iranian leader. In contrast, United States President George W. Bush spent his time at the podium addressing such is-

sues as literacy, poverty and the fight for democracy in the world. Surprisingly, Bush did not mention the Iraq war in his speech, and focused on current human rights situations. However, the President also denounced the cruelty of the world's dictators, citing North Korea, Syria and Iran as examples of brutal governmental leadership.

During his visit, Ahmadinejad expressed his interest in paying respects for the September 11th, 2001 tragedy by visiting ground zero. New York police denied this request early last week, asserting that the president would not be allowed anywhere near the location. Aside from local restrictions, Ahmadinejad was confined to a 25-mile radius of Columbus Circle in Manhattan under international law.

World News in Brief

GREECE - After weeks of catastrophic fires in August, environmental protection officials from WWF have announced that it will take decades for the trees and wildlife to recover from the fires' destruction. The fires damaged over 400,000 acres in the Peloponnese peninsula, and have also disrupted and killed many rare species of animals in the Grecian countryside.

CHINA - Recent soil erosion, landslides and water pollution at the site of the Three Gorges Dam in China have triggered the potential for an environmental catastrophe near the Dam. The Three Gorges project was begun in 1993 in order to generate electricity from the Yangtze river. The dam is scheduled to be completed in 2008.

VENEZUELA - After a controversial visit to the United States for a United Nations meeting, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad traveled to South America and met with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The two leaders have been allies in trade and democratic relations in recent years.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - Since April, over 170 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo have died of hemorrhaging caused by the Ebola virus. This has been the first major resurgence of the disease since 1995, and an estimated 400 have fallen ill with similar symptoms.

INDONESIA - Nine Australian youths remain in a Bali jail and are awaiting execution by firing squad after attempting to smuggle eight kilograms of heroin out of the country in 2005. All appeals on the death sentences have been rejected by judges. The boys, between the ages of 20 and 30, have pleaded for their lives in the hope that their confessions will motivate a less severe penalty.

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Wonderful World of Physics

Department Hosts Information and Activity Week

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

The week was full of various physics-related events, aimed at attracting students to the Physics Department. Freshman, who are required to attend events from two of the various departmental discipline weeks for their CSM101 classes, were of particular recruitment interest to the department. Included in the week's activities were a bowling night at Golden Bowl, co-hosted by the Physics Department and the Society of Physics Students (SPS), presentations for interested students outside of Slate Café, and two open-house tours of Mine's physics facilities.

The presentations outside of Slate Café occurred every day last week. Physics

students and faculty demonstrated various physics devices which demonstrated audio and optic principles, among others. Apart from that, the physics curriculum at Mines was discussed and opportunities after graduation (such as graduate school and work at technical and engineering firms) were presented to those interested.

The open house

and tour included a brief presentation about many of the same things addressed by the presentations outside of Slate Café and was followed by a tour of the physics department. Stops included the General Research Lab as well as labs and offices in Meyer Hall. Much of CSM's cutting-edge research equipment was presented by physics students and faculty; the reasons for being an Engineering Physics major at Mines were excitedly discussed.

According to SPS President Ryan Veirs, the physics discipline week was a second chance to get students interested in physics and SPS after Celebration of Mines. The bowling night at Golden Bowl, in particular, was a good way "to show kids what SPS is about - a lot of freshmen aren't around Meyer [Hall], so there's hardly any way to communicate [to them]."

Freshman Abe Warfield was present at many of the week's physics events. Undecided as to what he wants to study, he came to "explore what is to be offered by the departments." Warfield said about the physics discipline week, "[it is] helping me get to know the type of people doing these majors." Fellow freshman, Sarah Hinnegan, who is also looking through her options, said that the bowling night "showed that the department cares enough to let people hang out and enjoy themselves."



JAKE REZAC / OREDIGGER

FRESHMAN CLASS Statistics

Declared Majors for Undergraduate Students	
Undeclared	272
Mechanical Engineering	129
Chemical Engineering	113
Petroleum Engineering	74
Civil Engineering	62
Electrical Engineering	53
Physical Engineering	47
Computer Science	37
Chemistry	15
Geological Engineering	12
Geophysical Engineering	12
Environmental Engineering	12
Metallurgy	12
Economics and Buisness	6
Mining Engineering	6
Math	4

New Undergraduates	866
Applications Received	6063
Applications Accepted	3692
% Acceptance Rate	61%
Average GPA	3.7
Average SAT Score	1250
Average ACT Score	29
Number of Ethnic/Racial Minority	113

Introduction from the Oredigger Editorials Board:

This plan was developed by Dr. Heidi Loshbaugh, working directly under Colorado School of Mines President Dr. Myles “Bill” Scoggins. It is a living document and, as such, feedback from all members of the CSM community has been requested. The Oredigger will be accepting Letters to the Editor on this topic. Readers may also attend ASCSM meetings and e-mail campus administration to provide feedback.

Mission

To meet national and regional demands for engineering talent for the foreseeable future, Colorado School of Mines will become a significantly diversified STEM institution, continuing to deliver a highly competitive education and conduct world-renowned research on a welcoming and embracing campus comprised of a broader spectrum of students, faculty, and staff.

Vision

Given shifts in the engineering workforce and global marketplace, the engineer of the future must be culturally fluent, socially adaptable, technically sophisticated, and perennially revising her/his competencies. To prepare graduates for the global economy, Colorado School of Mines must adapt its campus climate, expand its educational opportunities, and broaden the profile of the students, faculty, and staff who make up our campus community.

Guiding Principles

Colorado School of Mines must continue to recruit highly qualified students, faculty, and staff, maintain rigorous expectations, and retain, graduate, and employ persons with significant expertise in their areas of education and responsibility. The campus community must be a place that welcomes and fosters a broad range of personal and cultural identity, belief, and practice, even as it encourages academic and professional excellence.

Diversity Defined

At Colorado School of Mines, the principal of diversity is defined as an openness to and tolerance for differences of thought, opinion, and practice held by members of its campus community. President Myles W. “Bill” Scoggins has called for a change in the campus culture to make it more welcoming, comfortable, and safe for anyone who participates in the life of CSM. Stakeholders include students, faculty, staff, alumni, industry employers, the Board of Trustees, and the residents of Colorado. Practically, who enrolls and seeks employment at our institution is a factor in how campus community members perceive their experience at the institution. Historically, engineering has enrolled and employed few women and minorities, and CSM is no exception. CSM seeks to broaden its representation among women and minorities—African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos/Latinas, and Native Americans—and be sensitive to and inclusive of age, ability, first-generation to college and socio-economic status, geography, sexuality, nationality religion, and first languages.

Why Does Diversity Matter?

Quality of Life

A more diversified CSM will mean a more flexible, tolerant, sustainable institution that maintains high standards and expectations, while including a broader capacity for the human experience of students, faculty, and staff.

Mentoring, Role Modeling, and Critical Mass

The relative absence of women in teaching and decision-making capacities at CSM is problematic because of the mentoring and role-model functions faculty serve, as well as being the transmitters (through teaching) and originators (through research) of knowledge. If there are few women within an institution, it becomes more difficult to recruit and retain female students because students perceive that the institution does not “look like them.” The same applies for minority students. If ethnic

and racial minorities are absent from the ranks of faculty and administration, their voices feature less prominently or not at all in critical delivery of and decision making about institutional priorities. Additionally, if the institution is not culturally open and comfortable to students of different identities and beliefs, they may not choose to stay; instead, they may opt to transfer to an educational environment that is more inclusive.

Institutional Vitality

Failure to act strategically and immediately regarding diversifying CSM will impair the institution’s capacity for future success. As internal research conducted among potential students in Spring of 2007 indicated, those who opt not to go to CSM are making highly competitive decisions—to attend Stanford and UC Berkley, among others—based on academic options and financial resources offered by those universities. Because these institutions are aggressive and rigorous—and already focused on diversifying—CSM stands to lose if it does not act now.

Diversifying for Excellence

This effort will require developing sensitivity to the needs of new populations, as well as the capacity to meet those needs, even as we maintain high standards and programs and a safe and comfortable transition for current members of our campus community.

Goals and measurable outcomes are essential to success; however, numbers alone are not the answer. Because this initiative is focused on quality, change requires more than simply shifting percentages to declare the job finished. Institutional change of CSM’s climate and culture will be essential to diversity success.

Where are we?

Students

It is no secret that CSM has a low enrollment of women and racial and ethnic minorities, as do STEM disciplines across the United States (although some institutions have much higher representation of Asian Americans than does CSM). CSM’s enrollment percentages have remained fairly static for a number of years, despite numeric increases. Additionally, the majority of CSM’s student population is from the Denver metropolitan area.

- Enrollment of women has ranged from 25.9 percent in Fall 2002 to 22.5 percent in Fall 2006.
- Enrollment of all minority students at CSM has ranged from 12.2 percent in Fall 2002 to 12.6 percent in Fall 2006
- Between 2003 and 2006, more that 60 percent of all CSM students arrived on campus from roughly a 75 mile radius from 1500 Illinois.

However, aggregated percentages do not really capture the experience of the people on our campus.

- In Fall 2006, four CSM academic departments enrolled no African American undergraduate students.
- In Fall 2006, seven CSM academic departments enrolled fewer than ten Asian American undergraduate students.
- In Fall 2006, CSM enrolled a total of eight Native American women in engineering majors; none of them were juniors, only one, a senior.
- Among graduate students in Fall of 2006, CSM had neither an African American nor a Native American woman enrolled out of a total 196 female graduate students.

Numbers such as these suggest the potential for isolation and loneliness for women and minority students. Furthermore, given the structure of laboratories and research projects, opportunities for mentoring, collaborative work, and learning from more senior role models are sharply curtailed, if they exist at all.

Faculty

The CSM faculty does not look that much different than STEM faculty across the U.S. Some institutions report higher percentages of international faculty; a few STEM programs report higher numbers of female faculty. Underrepresented minorities are scarce among STEM university faculty. By and large, STEM faculty are white and male.

This is not simply a “pipeline” problem; it is a climate problem for STEM fields in higher education. In fact, the numbers of women and underrepresented minorities graduating with advanced degrees in science and engineering have steadily increased for two decades.

However, academia has been an unattractive career option for women and underrepresented minority Ph.D.s.

Furthermore, women and underrepresented minorities tend to be clustered in the lower academic ranks, among assistant and associate professors. Nationwide, the fastest growth in teaching ranks is among “alternative appointments,” non-tenure track faculty; women make up the majority of these ranks. Women in these positions earn less and have less career stability than do white men. Underrepresented minority faculty have lower rates of tenure and job satisfaction than do white men.

Women and underrepresented minorities who remain past tenure become highly sought after, and universities frequently pirate competitors’ stars. CSM cannot solve alone what is a systemic problem; however, focused attention and redirected resources, along with attention to climate and culture will be measurable strategies to shift the status quo.

Where Do We Go from Here?

Recognizing the complexity of diversity within an institution, it is important for CSM to develop strategies that are based in present circumstances and address current needs. To do so, decision makers need data and clear understanding of now to be able to make institutional change for tomorrow.

Thus, President Scoggins sets the following priorities and timelines for diversifying CSM.

Climate Survey

To drive change for the future, CSM will launch a faculty/staff climate survey during AY 2007-2008. Knowledge about current circumstances for faculty and staff is necessary to understand what we need to do better to make CSM a highly desirable employment opportunity, both for our existing community and for those we hope to recruit and retain.

The survey will be developed by an external firm experienced in collecting qualitative data regarding workplace and environmental issues. Topics about which the Climate Survey will gather data include

- Have all units implemented family-friendly scheduling consistently?
- Do all employees feel they have access to appropriate redress to workplace concerns/complaints?
- What are critical work/life balance concerns for CSM faculty and staff?
- How can CSM adapt to be a more tolerant, nurturing work environment?

The results will be disseminated to the campus community and will drive decision-making about how to improve the quality of work-life at CSM.

By better understanding the quality of workplace experiences and needs of CSM’s present faculty and staff, we will be able to address issues of attractiveness and retention. If CSM is a highly desirable employment option for highly qualified faculty and staff, recruitment becomes easier; retention naturally follows.

Research into Best Practices

Because other institutions of higher education have focused resources and attention into diversifying for as long as three decades, a body of literature has emerged on successful practices for diversifying universities. During AY 2007-2008, the President’s Diversity Initiative will conduct research into best practices across higher education, concentrating on peer institutions, to the best possible degree. A report of findings and recommendations for best practices in higher education to foster and nurture a diverse climate appropriate to CSM’s needs and future goals will be delivered to the CSM community in Fall 2008.

Institutional Diversity Leadership Council

President Scoggins has called for the development of a Institutional Diversity Leadership Council composed of decision makers from across CSM. During AY 2007-2008, the IDLC will meet for a facilitated two-day session, which will include training, priority setting, and development of strategies for dissemination and implementation across the campus.

In collaboration with the President’s Diversity Committee, this council will be charged with developing measurable goals and action items to serve as the foundation for institutional objectives for diversifying CSM. The final outcome from the IDLC will be to develop a game plan for CSM and strategies for implementing it at the unit level.

Rockies Rolling

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

If you haven't been paying attention to the Rockies this season, here is what you missed:

The Rockies became the first team since the early 1960's to sweep both New York teams (in this case, the Yankees and the Mets) in a series in a single season. They also won every series at Coors Field in a near 3 month span, starting in May and ending in August.

The Rockies had the best ERA in the NL from the All Star Break to the end of August. This is in spite of the fact that the Rockies consistently are last in the league in ERA. They are chasing the record for team fielding percentage in a single season with a current .989 percentage (out of 1000 plays made, they have made an average of 11 errors).

They have a strong contender for National League Most Valuable Player in LF Matt Holliday and Rookie of the Year in SS Troy Tulowitzki.

The Rockies have also had the longest winning streak in the MLB this season with 11 straight wins. This also beats a franchise record of 9 straight wins set back in 1997. They also broke the franchise mark for most wins in a season with 88 as of Saturday, with their previous record being 83. But the most important number in their repertoire is 1.

With the 4-3 win on Sunday against the Diamondbacks, the Rockies are 1 game out of a wildcard playoff spot. They also have lost 1 game in their past 14 games to put make a dramatic comeback in the wild card race. This team has united as one cohesive unit to put together one of the greatest months in team history. Their 11-1 win Saturday may have summed up their astounding stretch the best.

Saturday's game against the Arizona Diamondbacks started with a bang. Pitcher Mark Redman allowed a lone run and struck out 6 batters in an impressive 5 innings pitched.

Meanwhile, the Rockies gave him support early, getting their first 5 batters on base in the bottom of the first inning and eventually scoring 4 runs while batting through the order. They never looked back or let up after this inning. Rookie Troy Tulowitzki came up with a few defensive gems from shortstop and sealed the game with a grand slam in the 6th inning. Shortly after that, the backups came in for both teams, signifying the Diamondbacks conceding defeat. This was a dominating performance by the Rockies against the division leading D-Backs.

This is a huge turnaround for the team. Just this past off-season, career Rockies pitcher Jason Jennings was traded to the Astros and the team acquired a speedy but unproven hitter Willy Taveras and rookie pitcher Jason Hirsch. Taveras started at centerfield and hit leadoff for the Rockies for most of this season while Hirsh showed a lot of promise before becoming one of the three starters the Rockies lost.

Even if the Rockies do not make the playoffs, the future is bright.

The Rockies are a young team. Todd Helton is the only veteran on an offense full of kids. Most of the Rockies have a mere 3-4 years of experience and they can grow as they gain experience. Take the example of Holliday, who has an extra year of experience compared to RF Brad Hawpe and 3B Garrett Atkins. In that one year span, Holliday went from merely being a good player to statistically being one of the best in the league. He has 36 home runs, 133 RBI, 118 runs scored, 50 doubles, and a .340 batting average, all within the top 7 in the major leagues.

Hawpe, Atkins, and Holliday all have over 20 home runs and 100 RBI and any improvement is just icing on the cake. But the player with the most potential for improving might be Tulowitzki. He holds the best fielding percentage amongst full time shortstops in the major leagues. He's shown time and again that he can make plays with great range and has a rocket for an arm. But his offensive skills are as strong as his defense. He broke a record for home runs by a rookie shortstop with 24 and added in 100 runs and 98 RBI. He's tied for the most RBI amongst shortstops, fifth in home runs, and sixth in runs scored. For most players, this would be a career year. For Tulowitzki, it's merely his first. This adds up to the second most runs scored in the National League.

On the pitching side, starting pitcher Jeff Francis has established himself as the club's ace with a franchise record-tying 17 wins this season. They also have Aaron Cook, who has a slider described as "one of the nastiest in the major leagues." One of the replacement Rockies, Franklin Morales, tied a club record with 21 straight innings of scoreless baseball pitched. In short, the Rockies have their best pitching staff in their short history.

The Rockies will play a short playoff with the San Diego Padres for the wild card spot this afternoon. Regardless of the outcome of this game, Rockies fans everywhere have just become witnesses to the coming out party. The Rockies are relevant again. Whether they make it to the playoffs or not, they have made the statement that they are pushovers no longer.



Courtesy Teresa Malesardi

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION: On Saturday the 15th, the ladies of Sigma Kappa and the gentlemen of Phi Gamma Delta volunteered their morning to the memory walk in Denver, supporting Alzheimer's research. On the 22nd, the Sigma Kappas volunteered again at the Colorado Railroad Museum for A Day Out with Thomas. Watch out in the student center for these ladies selling lollipops to support Alzheimer's research!

Tales from the Offseason

The Good, the Bad, and the Sad in the NFL

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

To say this past NFL offseason started off in the worst possible way would be an understatement. At 2:00 AM on New Year's Day, just hours after the end of the regular season, Denver Bronco cornerback Darrent Williams was killed in a drive by shooting, allegedly related to gang violence.

This incident acted as a catalyst for the defining policy in the NFL of the past 9 months. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell consulted a think

"The Personal Conduct Policy has punished troublemakers toughly and swiftly."

tank of NFL players, including Darrent's friend and fellow cornerback Dominique Foxworth, and came up with a no-tolerance Personal Conduct Policy. This document was intended to curb off-the-field shenanigans and it appeared to be long overdue.

The NFL had been plagued with player arrests during the previous season. The Cincinnati Bengals were the worst offender in this respect. In 2006 alone, the team had 9 separate incidents with the law, including WR Chris Henry, who was arrested three times in 2006 and 4 times in the past 2 years. The team had more arrests than wins that year and the Bengals missed the playoffs, despite an abundance of talent.

The Personal Conduct Policy has punished troublemakers toughly and swiftly. Almost immediately after the policy was enacted

this April, Goodell suspended Henry for 8 games and Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones for a full season. Jones was suspended for a shooting that occurred in a Las Vegas strip club.

Also suspended under this new policy was Chicago Bears defensive tackle Tank Johnson, for multiple incidents including an arrest for possession of unlicensed

weapons, and Michael Vick, for running an illegal dog fighting ring and illegal gambling on said

fights. The punishment for Johnson was 8 games, but Vick, one of the most popular and marketable superstars in the NFL, received a full year suspension at minimum, but the door has been left open for a lifetime ban. It is estimated that Vick may have lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of lost endorsement deals and the possible voiding of his NFL contract which was worth an NFL record of \$130 million at the time it was signed in late 2004.

Trouble dominated the off-season, but it also had its fair share of tragedy. Less than 2 months after the death of Darrent Williams, the Broncos lost another player, backup running back Damien Nash. Nash had just played in a celebrity basketball game for his charity, the Darris Nash Find A Heart Foundation. This foundation was named

for Damien's brother who had just recently received a heart transplant. Damien Nash was found dead hours after the game and the

"Doctors performed the transplant between the two Cowboys, a first between two professional athletes."

coroner believes that a heart ailment was to blame, although it was never confirmed.

But this past offseason was not all gloom. Former Dallas Cowboy RB Ron Springs was in need of a kidney transplant. He had Type 2 diabetes, which led to his right foot being amputated as well as a few toes on his left foot. He was on dialysis 3 times a week and was wheelchair bound. He had been on the kidney transplant list for 3 years. Then in came his former Cowboys teammate, CB Everson Walls. They had met at the Walls' first Dallas training camp and have been close friends ever since, even being godfathers to each others' children.

Instead of letting Springs compete with an estimated 70,000 people now awaiting kidney transplants, Walls offered up one of his after finding out that he and Springs were a match. Doctors performed the transplant between the two Cowboys, a first between two professional athletes. Springs has said of Walls, "[He] is my greatest friend right now, and I have to deal with him for 30 more years." So in spite of an offseason that football icon John Madden has described as 99% crap, remember the good that permeates throughout the sport and remember the lifelong bonds that it forges.

No Play, No Pay for Club Sports

Lily Giddings
Content Manager

The 2007-2008 budget for Club Sports is smaller than the 2006-2007 budget. This decrease is not a result of a lack of funding, but a decrease in the number of clubs; last year there were 20 clubs receiving funding, while this year there are 14 clubs. The number of clubs fluctuates from year to year, due to student interest

in the clubs offered. This does not mean, however, that some on-campus activities have been eliminated; it means that some former clubs changed status to "special interest groups."

Clubs at Mines are developed as a counterpart to the Varsity sports, in that they are competitive leagues, but they are more developmental than the Varsity sports.

John Howard commented, "Club sports are chosen for

their lasting power." This refers to sports that remain popular, and those where the involved students are interested in competition with local schools.

Clubs are discontinued when there is no opportunity for inter-collegiate competition. The men's rugby team engages in competition with local schools, such as CSU and CU. The cheerleading club, from last year, however, did not participate in competitions,

so they have been changed to a special interest group.

All clubs are receiving the same amount of funding, and the club sports office was able to purchase new equipment for the benefit of all the clubs and intramural sports. Some of this equipment includes portable scoreboards and a field painter, as well as paying for the hire of students to actually paint the field.

Don't Pass Up the Opportunity You and Your New Bus Pass

Akira Rattenbury
Student Council on Sustainability

As gas prices soar, construction continues on US 6, and your '93 Camry continues to just barely make it to campus, the time is ripe for you to start using your bus pass. With last spring's passage of the Intermodal Transportation Fee, you now have access to the entire RTD bus and Light Rail system in the metro area, and you may not even know it.

Currently, Golden bus service relies on four regular routes and one regional route. The 16, 17, 16Ltd, and 44 Ltd can be picked up in downtown Golden and rode into surrounding areas. The GS regional route services Golden to Boulder weekdays from morning until evening. You can leave Friday from Golden at 6:34 PM, go wild all weekend in Boulder, and return to classes Monday as early as 5:09 AM.

Trying to navigate Golden? If you live near Golden Ridge, South

Golden Road, or Colfax, the 16, 16 Ltd, and 17 have regular times to get you to and from class without fighting for that coveted CTLM parking space you arrive an hour early to get. You can even ride your bike to a bus stop and take it on the bus. This

"Looking to get to the airport? Why pay \$5 to \$20 a day to park your car at DIA when you can take the RTD Skyride to DIA from numerous locations in the metro area?"

allows you to snooze in that extra 5 minutes after you stayed up all night "studying." Also, instead of the hassle of driving in the snow this winter, take a ride and finish your homework on the warm buses. Going to downtown Denver? RTD is a fun and safe ride downtown to a Rockies game (playoffs!), the clubs, or whatever else Denver has to offer. By simply jumping on the 16 or 16Ltd, you can get downtown without switching buses in under an hour. Instead of looking for and paying for expensive parking, you

can relax on the bus and enjoy the company of your friends, or read that book you've been meaning to finish.

Looking to get to the airport? Why pay \$5 to \$20 a day to park your car at DIA when you can take the RTD Skyride to DIA from numerous locations in the metro area? Each Skyride parking area is lighted with security cameras so you don't have to worry about thugs stealing your car stereo. If you would rather leave from Golden, start with the buses from downtown Golden to get to the airport in about an hour and a half. Skyride normally costs \$18 round trip, but with your bus pass, it's free!

Use RTD-denver.com to access route information, plan a trip, or write to the regional director of RTD to get more routes for Golden. And remember, when you ride instead of drive, you save yourself money on gas, and you cut down on pollution.

Bus passes and route schedules are still available to be picked up for all undergraduates and graduate students who paid for them at the Student Activities Office. So far, only 2,017 students, or roughly 50% of the student body, have picked up their pass. You paid for it, so come get yours today!

Creative Outlet to Fame

Steven Bolger
Staff Writer

Despite prevailing attitudes that forced many of our art and literature teachers to insist that "there is more to life than science and math," many of us still find no more meaning in a Pollock masterpiece than in a kindergartner's finger-painting. However, some students find a strong connection between the ingenuity required to solve an engineering problem and the creativity necessary to produce art.

The music scene on campus is small, but is comprised of a dedicated group of people searching for a creative outlet. The majority of students on campus are even unfamiliar with the success of former-CSM band, No Fair Fights.

About four years ago, two guys from Mines formed a band with a few friends from the Golden area. These four college students simply wanted to continue playing music; they did not have high expectations for their band. After a few months, the guys became more comfortable playing and writing songs together. No Fair Fights, as they named their project, began to acquire dedicated fans and play bigger and better gigs. They entered, and usually won, local "battle of the bands" contests, and eventually earned the title of 106.7 KBPI's "Best Band in Denver-Top 18."

The pinnacle of No Fair Fights' career was at the 2003 Vans Warped tour when, according to CSM senior and member of the Flying Dinosaur, Charlie Frost, they opened for Unwritten Law. No Fair Fights now enjoys recognition not only state-wide, but also around the country. Their success can be attributed partially to the support

of the Golden community and their humble beginnings at CSM.

Frost recalls that CSM hosted a "battle of the bands" contest in March of 2005. Five or six bands on campus and from the surrounding community competed for the title of the "Best Band at CSM" and an E-Days Contract. Frost claims that it "sparked interest among the student body" in the music scene on campus. Unfortunately, the event,

"[They] wanted to continue playing music."

a tradition of many years, did not return in 2006, or 2007. A decrease

in interest over time has ensured the demise of this tradition. MAC found that the battle of bands contest no longer had enough support to be continued. Frost said that he "would have liked to have seen more Battle of the Bands competitions," they were unique opportunities that allowed local musicians and bands to gain the support of the CSM community.

Chances to enjoy the music of local bands do, however, still exist on and off campus. Anonymous Right Brains, a CSM club, hosts an "Open Mic Night" at Higher Grounds every other Thursday. The Blue Canyon Bar and Grille hosts one every Wednesday. Every other Friday, musicians, poets, and singers perform in the Boettcher Room of Arthur Lakes Library as part of the performance series, "Concerts in the Library." The Buffalo Rose provides a convenient venue for local bands.

The CSM community includes extremely talented musicians who have become remarkably successful in the past. The student body should provide a springboard for developing local acts. So, take a few minutes to learn more about bands around campus and town. You will be surprised what you discover.

BANDS @ MINES

THE HOLDOUTS

Band Name: The Holdouts
Genre: Classic Rock/ Pop/ Blues
Band Website: theholdouts.net
Band Members:

Gretchen Kunz
Eric Vielbig
Scott Wilson
Rod Switzer

Record Label: GoldenRod Records

Type of Label: Indie
Connection with CSM: drummer/vocalist Rod Switzer is a professor in the Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences at CSM

FLYING DINOSAUR

Genre: other
Band Website: myspace.com/flyingdinosaurband

Band Members:
Charlie Frost,
Jeff Miller,
Larry Forsythe,
Mike Ashiem
Elizabeth Hinkley

Record Label: none
Connection with CSM: Charlie Frost is an undergraduate student at CSM

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Week of October 1, 2007

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-HALLIBURTON Information Session
5:00-6:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom B
-CHEVRON CORPORATION Information Session
6:00-7:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom A

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

-EL PASO CORPORATION Information Session
5:00-6:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom B
-HANSON BUILDING MATERIALS Information Session
5:00-6:00 PM, Brown Bldg. 201
Interested in Civil, Mining
-BP Information Session
6:00-7:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom A

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

-BP: Society of Petroleum Engineers
11:30-1:30 PM, Friedhoff Hall
-CONOCO PHILLIPS GEO Information Session
5:00-6:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom A
-HENSEL PHELPS Information Session
6:00-7:00 PM, Brown Bldg. 201
Interested in Civil, Env., Mech.
-CHESAPEAKE ENERGY Information Session
7:00-8:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom A
-DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY Information Session
8:00-9:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom D
Interested in Met., Mech., ChemE., Elec.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

-EOG RESOURCES Information Session
5:00-6:00 PM, Alderson Hall 140
Interested in PE., Geo.
-MILENDER WHITE Information Session
5:00-6:00 PM, Brown Bldg. 204
Interested in Econ., All Eng.
-SCHLUMBERGER Information Session
6:00-7:00 PM, Stu. Ctr. Ballroom A
-SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY Information Session
7:00-8:00 PM, Alderson Hall 140
-GRANITE CONSTRUCTION Information Session
7:00-8:00 PM, Brown Bldg. 204
Interested in E.E., Env., Civil, Mech.

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Mines and The Tipping Point

Diversity in the Engineering Environment

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

“Institutions that Mines compares itself to are doing a better job with diversity. So, if you want to stay in that kind of company, you have to do better,” said Dr. Daryl E. Chubin, Director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Capacity Center.

In a series of lectures delivered late last week, Chubin discussed the necessity of an inclusive college environment. “Talking about diversity is very difficult. It’s emotionally wrenching, it forces people to address things explicitly that they would rather leave implicit,” said Chubin. With reference to diversity planning, he added, “If it succeeds, it will transform this campus.”

Chubin’s presentations centered around The Tipping Point – a book written by Malcolm Gladwell – and methods to implement its teachings in a collegiate environment.

In regard to Mines’ new focus on diversity, Chubin noted; “The biggest tragedy is when people who are capable and are interested are turned off and go elsewhere.” He continued with his personal definition of diversity,



COURTESY DARYL CHUBIN

saying that diversity means “all sorts of differences that matter to the community: disability, sexual orientation, first-generation college attendance, and language, in addition to the typical ones. The point is whether you see the differences as an asset or as a liability.”

In explaining how to understand diversity, Chubin explained, “You don’t do diversity for diversity’s sake, you do it because it makes the outcomes better. Professors need to ask themselves: ‘What are my assumptions about students who don’t look like me?’” Chubin also explained that people tend to become consumed with the “visible” types of diversity, as opposed to the “invisible” types.

In addition, Chubin pointed out that engineering communities tend to have a difficult time with change: “This is a set of communities that do not learn very well. They do themselves a great disservice. Gatekeeper courses do a lot to remove people who are good and capable.”

At the end of his lecture, Chubin was careful to note, “We are outsiders, which means I can say a bunch of stuff that you don’t like, then hop a plane and go home.”

Geek of the Week

...Darren Haines, Senior: Mechanical Engineering

Satira Tajdin-Labib
Staff Writer

When did you first realize you were a geek?
Well that’s an easy question, see I wear this watch, it is a Casio, and it’s got a calculator built in (it also had a scheduler and other neat things). Ever since I got this watch I’ve realized I was a geek. I saw all these watches to choose from and the only one I wanted was the one with the calculator and that was 7 or 8 years ago. I also have the “1997 Pre-Taiwan” issue Ti-83 plus.

Do you own Halo 3?
No, I’m more into classic arcade games like Atari 2600 and 5200. I own a ColecoVision, who was put out of business by Atari. I own the original Nintendo. I rebuild them too; I call Nintendo and get spare parts to refurbish older Nintendo systems. I have a Super Nintendo; and a 3D0 which is the pre-PlayStation. Also the 3D Nintendo, which was probably the worst game system ever built. It was very crude, everything was in red.

What’s the longest consecutive time you’ve spent on a video game?
Well, it wasn’t just me alone but there was this Atari contest. 1981 Laser Blast by Activision Contest: If you succeed in scoring the maximum of 1 million points, you will be admitted to the Activision Federation of Laser Blasters which entitles you to a certificate and small plaque. Four of my friends and I decided to attempt this monumental task

on the Atari 5200 even though it had expired nearly 23 years ago. Armed with a single button joystick and a case of Red Bull we began at 7am one Saturday and played in four hour shifts till we reached the ultimate points level, thus granting us the Status of Ultimate Laser Blasters, by 11pm that evening.

What is the geekiest thing you’ve ever done?
I once used a rock to calculate how high I was on a mountain top. I threw the rock off the mountain and I calculated my vertical position from where the rock landed. I had a topographic map with me but I didn’t know how to use it.

What’s the coolest thing about science?
The coolest thing about science would have to be the Mandelbrot set, because it physically represents infinity.

What are your passions in life?
I’m a Classic English car restoration enthusiast, and I happen to have one in my pocket right now. I drive around in a Classic mini. You can’t miss it; it’s blue and white.

What is your geek joke?
Q: How many Microsoft engineers does it take to change a light-bulb?
A: None - they just declare darkness to be industry standard.

What’s the geekiest thing you’ve seen at Mines?
Those posters (pointing to the posters in the Digger Den), the engineering schematics of a skier and an ice cream sundae. Those things, by far. I’ve heard and seen



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

Geek Pose: Darren Haines named “Geek of the Week.”

many things at Mines but those things are physical representations of geekiness at Mines.

What geeky club are you in?
I’m part of the WOW Addicts Anonymous. There’s a club I wanted to create “The Spinning Cylinders,” where we basically throw cylinders across campus. If you take a piece of paper and folded it in a cylinder and shoot it like a paper airplane. They just go like these fascinating things. (He demonstrated for me; I never knew cylinders could fly. It was pretty neat.)

What do you want to do after you graduate from Mines?
Rapid proto-typing, which is 3D modeling and injection modeling.

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Club Funding Breakdown

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

The ASCSM’s total budget for the current year was \$505,624.60. Roughly a third of this money went to MAC. They spend it on bringing special events to campus, Movie Night, Friday Afternoon Club, and E-Days. 16% of the money went to club sports, and 11% went to Intramural sports. This money

goes towards sports equipment like portable score boards and a field painter in addition to competition fees. The rest of



HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

MAC	\$168,600.00
Sports Club	\$80,000.00
IM Sports	\$55,000.00
Outdoor Rec	\$45,000.00
ASCSM	\$25,500.00
Oredigger	\$20,000.00
IFC	\$9,000.00
Circle K	\$7,500.00
Panhellenic	\$5,500.00
Ballroom Dance	\$6,000.00
Other	\$83,524.60
Total Budget	\$505,624.60

the money went to the Outdoor Recreation Center (9%), ASCSM (5%), the Oredigger (4%), IFC (2%), Circle K (1%), Panhellenic (1%), and Ballroom Dance (1%). Other organizations received the 17% of the remaining funds. The top 10 receivers of the allocated money got \$422,100.00.

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HALO 3 CURES COMMON COLD

Tim Weilert
Hypochondriac

Microsoft and Bungie Studios released the third and final installment of the “Halo” trilogy last week breaking sale records in the entertainment industry. Only one week since the release, side effects of human behavior by the video game have already been felt throughout the nation and world. The main side effect of compulsive Halo 3 usage appears to be a decrease in the spread of communicable diseases. Reported cases of the common cold, flu, rabies, chickenpox, hantavirus, turkeypox, and a slew of other diseases have dropped dramatically since Halo 3.

While a small portion of medical professionals cite “self-seclusion” from normal activity and human contact as the main result of

Halo 3, a much larger section of the medical world believes what has become known as “HD Immune System Enhancement.” Studies have found during extended periods of high definition images and sounds, the human body naturally produce excessive amounts of white blood cells, which in turn boosts immune system responses*.

“...the human body naturally produce excessive amounts of white blood cells...”

In addition to curing the common cold, Halo 3 has a variety of other non-entertainment uses. Physics majors on campus at Mines have found Halo 3 useful as a disc for the daily ultimate frisbee games on Kafadar Commons. Halo 3 can also be used as a fairly effective coaster for a variety of beverages, hot or cold.

*The only known side effects of HDISE are blindness, deafness, social anxiety, excessive body odor, tooth decay, and arthritis.



Zombie Nurse... nice.



Brett Favre

Think you have what it takes to “Take Your Best Shot”?

Email your joke about “Brett Favre” to oredig@mines.edu with the heading “Take your best shot,” your name, and your major or class you teach.

Five Things about Zombies That You Should Know

Oliver Todd
Zombiologist

Aside from in-depth knowledge of “Scrubs” trivia and being “Flip Cup champion of the Western Hemisphere” (I took second at the world championships to a guy from Singapore that should have been checked for steroids), I am a connoisseur of zombie movies. I love zombie movies. Nothing is better than just hanging out and watching a group of bad actors running away from some of the most entertaining film monsters in existence. On the up side, I have been able to do research into what we can all expect in the case of an actual zombie attack. Most people know the basics about surviving a zombie situation, but there are some overlooked tidbits you need to know.

1. Zombie attacks are a great way to pick up women

I know it is shallow. I know it is crude. But as a guy, I can personally vouch for the fact that regardless of the catastrophe going on around us, we are still trying to get tail. From my extensive research on the topic, there are always at least two attractive women in any random group of people that band together for survival. Out of those two, one of them will be the sweet, strong-willed type that is perfect dating material while the other will normally be a downright [lady of ill repute].

It is a win-win situation. This combined with the adrenaline of killing zombies is enough to get anyone's hormones racing. The only flaw is the stress your relationship will be under from being forged in such awkward circumstances. Oh, and the fact that freaking zombies are attacking you.

2. Don't be rich

This is the one situation where I wouldn't want to have moolah and trust me, I've been hoping to become rich enough to hire a troupe of break dancing midgets to follow me around. In almost every zombie movie, there is at least one rich jerk that seems to forget that zombies don't care if he has a BMW or a country club membership. This guy will almost always try to argue with everyone and point to the fact that he is rich to justify why he is important. Luckily this lasts for all of 20 minutes before he tries to run away and becomes zombie food. To be honest, I feel bad for the zombies that have to eat him. If this guy is a rich tool when he is alive, just imagine what he would be like as a rich zombie tool. Poor zombies.

3. Don't be Russian

Zombies like vodka. Enough said. You know it is true.

4. Zombies can't swim

I don't really understand this, but from everything I've seen it is an indisputable fact-- Zombies hate the water. I could moon a zombie from ten feet away

as long as I'm standing in the shallow end of the pool. It doesn't make any sense! This means your chance of survival during a zombie attack is much greater if you live near large bodies of water. This also means that anyone in Kansas is totally boned. But honestly, does it really matter? Russians live in Kansas.

5. Your best friend will become a zombie

I know zombie uprisings sound like all fun and games, but they are very emotionally draining as well. In all my experiences with zombies, the best friend always gets screwed over in the end. It normally happens when freedom is within everyone's grasp and out of nowhere your buddy gets bitten. As the best friend, it is your duty to be the one to put them out of their misery. I frequently tell my close friends (as well family members, pets, teachers, and the occasional fast food worker) that if they become a zombie, I will not hesitate to do what needs to be done. John: you really shouldn't have eaten my Pizza Bagels.

In today's society, a zombie attack seems inevitable. Everything is so messed up already that an undead uprising would just be a cherry on top of the proverbial sundae. Well, that and voting for Hillary Clinton. But really, are those two things different?



Mad Mines-You become the reporter!

Nationally recognized author, Proper Noun 1, released her new book Number weeks ago and it is already a Adjective seller. The book, “Infinitive in the Noun,” has made readers pleased selling Number copies its first day. The plot is complex, but inviting. A Adjective man and his Noun travel to Location for Plural Noun. On their way, they meet Proper Noun 2, a Adjective woman who loves Infinitive. To say the least, they get into trouble. They Verb off a train, Verb through a river, and in chapter Number, Proper Noun 2 gets to Verb her enemy. This book will Verb your mind in Proper Noun 1's twisted and Adjective world.-Mike Stone

Taser This!

CSU Student Tasered after Inflammatory Article

Mathew Pusard
Shocking Reporter

After writing an incendiary free-speech editorial for the Colorado State University student paper, the author was tasered in his apartment by two secret service agents on Thursday. The divisive article that ignited a ruckus was entitled "Taser This!" and contained the message "[Expletive Deleted] Bush." This initiated a vast debate about First Amendment rights versus good judgment of the press when regarding obscenities.

The secret service agents, James Bauer, 34, and Patrick Snow, 36, flew into Colorado specifically for the taser. On the evening of September 27th, the two men broke into the editors apartment at 7:52pm and saw a man sleeping on the couch. They immediately zapped him. It was later found that he was the roommate of the editorial writer, known as Steve. Steve mentioned that he was peeved about being shocked, but he played possum at the time. "Didn't want to see myself at the wrong end of a Guantanamo Bay trip."

The secret service agents soon found their way to the writer's room and found him also asleep. They turned up the voltage from 10,000 to 15,000 volts. They felt this would deliver a near fatal blow and get their message across. By doing so, they decreased the amperage so when they finally zapped the writer, he woke up, saw what they were doing, laughed, and fire proceeded to blow out of his nose. The fire quickly spread to his bed and end table, breaking up the scene. The writer, agents, and formerly presumed-dead Steve

fled the apartment. The agents ended up making a clean getaway from the scene before the firefighters arrived, doused the fire, and found Snow's credentials lying on the bedroom floor.

We caught up to the bold members of the secret service at Denver International Airport to ask them about the incident. When inquired ton their purpose, Bauer responded, "The article sounded like a dare." Snow added, "It isn't

like we were needed around the White House anyway. We just gave Cheney a shotgun and no one has come within a few blocks of the building since we left. The only downside is the dead squirrel piles on the White House lawn. When Cheney gets his gun, things tend to die in swarms"

Here at the Oredigger, this was a very important issue. One anonymous and stunningly handsome Fool's Gold writer had this to say about the controversy:

"I was offended by the editorial. It's not because it was obscene nor am I a Bush apologist. I was offended

because it wasn't original. The best you can come up with is an obscenity to describe Bush? I'm pretty sure that's been said millions of times in New York City alone. In fact, I hear that's like a greeting in NYC. I know a lot of humor surrounding the president has been recycled these days, but this was not a step in the right direction. Like him or not, everyone knows Bush provides a proverbial treasure trove of jokes with his gaffs and malapropisms. The editor probably deserved a little bit of zapping for this crime against journalism."



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Jack Bauer is My Hero

A Manifesto Against the Lies

Mike Stone
CTU agent #4, episode 53

How many times can one man save the world? I say, "not enough." What training is required for such a job? Close quarters combat, bomb defusing, car sliding, weapons training, and holding your breath...ing. Who are Jack Bauer's heroes? MacGyver and Walker Texas Ranger. Does Jack like you? He thinks you are a terrorist and he'll do anything to get you to admit you're a terrorist. Did I run out of questions to ask? Yes.

A scandal has erupted around our beloved hero of heroes. Jack Bauer has been ac-

cused of Driving Under the Influence by the U.S. Government. This grievous and terrible act of jealousy has come directly from the President after a history of drug use was recently wiped off his record. Jack Bauer had never and will never drive under the influence of anything but "bad-assery."

On the night in question, Jack killed five terrorists, had two car chases, interrogated three people, cracked one code, said the words, "Who do you work for?" eight times, tortured a child and baked a bunt cake. There simply wouldn't be enough time for drinking, let alone

sleeping or going to the restroom. If he had gone to sleep, he would have been gone for three episodes. Instead, he put some beer cans suspected of terrorism in his back seat.

If you do not know who the great Jack Bauer is, there is a chronicle of his life pieced together from conveniently placed security cameras on the Fox Network every year in mid-fall. It is called "24" for how many times Jack Bauer has saved the world. Our national hero can be seen Mondays at 7pm. I would gladly have Jack Bauer's babies.

Isn't Ahmadinejad Entitled to Freedom of Speech?

Satira Tajdin-Labib
Staff Writer

Why would you invite a Israel-hating madman to our country as a guest speaker?

This thought was on the minds of many Americans last Monday when the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad finally arrived in the USA. This is the same Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who is famous for wanting to "blow Israel off the map" and who sends lengthy letters to President Bush. He was invited by the president of Columbia University, Lee C. Bollinger, to answer questions about the Iranian presidency.

When the Iranian president arrived Monday in New York, he was met by a massive crowd of raging citizens; he was also greeted with a string of insults from Bollinger. Is this why Bollinger invited Ahmadinejad, to insult him for 2 hours? The next day Iranian citizens displayed their anger. They demanded that Bollinger come to their country for an interview, saying that due to their culture, they would treat him with nothing but respect.

During Ahmadinejad's address to Columbia University, he was faced with questions about Israel, the Holocaust, and his treatment of homosexuals. He said the Holocaust did not have enough documentation. Furthermore, he denied executing homosexuals because that "phenomenon" does not exist in Iran.

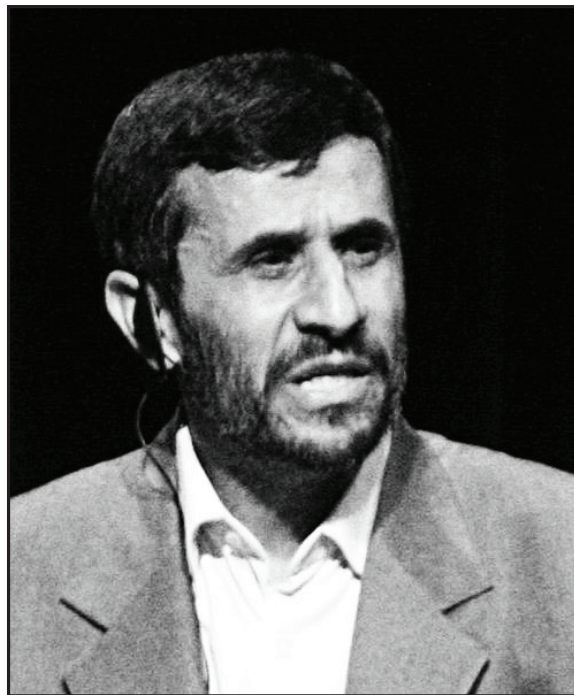
Afterwards, Ahmadinejad felt that the talk was a positive move

for Iran. I also think this is true. It gave him a chance to talk to America without the influence of subjective media. He could portray himself as something other than the cruel and insane dictator touted by the media.

"No day passes without people being killed, wounded or displaced... while [the political leaders of America] do not even have the courage to declare their defeat and exit Iraq." These are Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's words, translated from Farsi, at his UN appearance on Tuesday. So who is "Mahmoud Ahmadinejad," and what exactly he is he trying to accomplish?

I believe the Iranian president is a great leader trying to put a great country back on the map. He has done many things for his country in the public eye. In an Islamic country like Iran, the majority would praise him for eliminating the gay population. Iran has taken

a turn for the better in religion and politics since Ahmadinejad, son of a blacksmith, came to power. America is one nation under



COURTESY WIKIPEDIA

Controversy: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke at Columbia University in New York last week.

God? That is completely inaccurate. Iran is the true nation under God. Not even the self-proclaimed Kingdom of Saudi Arabia compares with Iran. If you weren't aware, America and Saudi Arabia have a lovely friendship. Iran tries to steer clear of alliances with Saudi Arabia, especially after Saudi Arabia clearly sided with Iraq in the Iran-Iraq War. Iran would prob-

ably have an alliance with Israel, before considering one with Saudi Arabia. Ahmadinejad steps up to America like no other country ever has. He fearlessly criticizes and insults Bush and his counterparts. Intrepid, he travels straight to America and expresses his views. He is great for expressing his views about Israel when every Arab nation is too afraid. He also did a great deed by helping fund the war between Hezbollah and Israel. You should know most of the weapons Hezbollah uses are from Iran.

And then there is the nuclear issue, which America will not let go. These are Ahmadinejad's clear words on the nuclear issue: "Well, you have to appreciate we don't need a nuclear bomb. We don't need that. What need do we have for a bomb?" So why is the USA so preoccupied with Iran's attempt to harness nuclear energy.

Why is Iran not "allowed" to develop this type of technology? Let us assume Iran is candidly trying to manufacture nuclear bombs. So what? What right does America have to say "Iran you can't do that, only some countries can, and you are not one of them?" Scores of countries in the world have nuclear bombs. Why is Iran not allowed?

Is it because America is actually scared of Iran? Or is it because Iran has a particular problem with a particular little state in the Middle East? If Iran would have said it wanted to blow Honduras or Cuba off the map, the political heads in Washington would not have uttered a word. However,

when America's little baby Israel is mentioned, you've screwed up.

According to the Congressional Research Service report, from the years 1949 to 2001, the total aid (our tax dollars) paid to Israel was \$81.38 billion, not including hidden funds. Also, Israel, whose population is 0.1% of the total world population, gets around one-third of all US foreign aid. At one point Congress had cut the welfare budget to \$5.3 billion, but aid to Israel that year was still \$5.2 billion. Maybe the Iranian president is just trying to save us some money, who knows?

So why do the American people hate Ahmadinejad so much? He hasn't hurt or threatened a single American. Yet we hold signs which read "Go to Hell" and call him Hitler. A man should not be hated for his ideologies and beliefs. I would like to find the person holding that sign and ask him, "Why do you think Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a normal human being like yourself, whom you have never met, should go to Hell?" I wonder what he would reply.

I want to leave you with just one thought: the Iranian President does not hate you. He tries to help the American people see the truth, the same truth their own government is shielding from them. I want you to see that Ahmadinejad is not a man to be hated. You should give him a chance. As Ahmadinejad announced at his UN speech, "The rights and dignity of the American people are also being sacrificed for the selfish desires of those holding power."

Different Standards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

I applaud the voters of Michigan who passed Proposal 2 last November. Proposal 2 amended the Michigan constitution to ban preferential hiring and admissions practices. It also has a clause that banned discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, race, color, and national origin.

In reality, preferential treatment in the name of diversity is discrimination. To hire or admit someone who is less qualified because they would increase the diversity of your institution is to not hire or admit someone who is better qualified because they aren't considered diverse. In most cases, this means discriminating against better-qualified candidates

because of their gender, ethnicity, race, color, or national origin. Obviously, that is not ok.

Affirmative action is a well-intentioned, but outdated, response to a problem that should be solved by other means. The ideal situation would be to consider candidates for a job or admission to college without any regard to personal characteristics. It sounds easy, but it means looking at others with consideration only for the qualities of their character. To my knowledge, the only man in recorded history to truly do this was Christ Jesus, and he was, shall we say, special. But nevertheless, that is the goal, and we should at least be able to say we tried without using a cop-out like affirmative action.

Correction

In the last issue of The Oredigger, the article about the counselor workshops incorrectly listed the sponsoring organization as CCHE (Colorado Council on Higher Education). The correct sponsoring organization is the Colorado Council on High School and College Relations (CCHS/CR).

Submission Policy

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please consult the Editorials Board policy at the top of Page 10. Editorials represent the official opinion of neither The Oredigger nor the Colorado School of Mines. All Letters to the Editor must be received by 5:00 PM on October 5th to be placed in next issue.

American Dreams Defending American Capitalism

Ricky Walker
Staff Writer

One thing that has always bothered me is the negativity of the American Left. Listening to what liberals say almost makes you want to go become a hermit in the mountains for the rest of your life. Simply turn on CNN for five minutes and you will hear liberals and special interest groups making depressing statements such as: "Millions of people are without health care," "Poverty in America is rampant," and of course the most popular one, "These people are victims of (blank)."

Today however, I am going to tell you something that you don't hear too often. You probably will never hear this from the ACLU. You certainly will not hear it from Hillary Clinton's campaign. I am going to tell you what the media will not waste their time telling you. I am going to tell you that you can do it. I am going to tell you that you can make it in life. You do not need welfare. You do not need the ACLU. You do not need to vote Democrat hoping for a better life. You do not need socialized programs to have a fighting chance in the world. I'm telling you that despite what people in today's world tell you, you are a capable human being and you can raise yourself up in society.

I'm not specifically talking to Mines students right now. In fact, if only rich and smart CSM students read this right now, I would be disappointed. I'm speaking to everyone. I am saying that whether you are Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Oriental, Latino, Middle Eastern, rich, poor, male, female, or any other category

you can think of, you can do it.

Yes, I know living in a capitalist economy is hard. Of course it is hard. Anyone who told you it would be easy was lying to you. And yes, socialism is easier. Welfare is easier. But while nothing in our capitalist economy is free, true beauty comes in the fact that everything can be earned. Many on the Left will tell you that increasing welfare (particularly in the area of health care) will result in a better life for those below the poverty line. However, doing this would take away the very thing that that is needed the most—the American Dream and the ability to earn something better.

Working your way above the poverty line is not impossible, as many people in society will try to tell you. It is not about being smart or being rich. It is about working hard and earning your way to the top. Watch the movie *The Pursuit of Happyness* if you refuse to believe it is possible. Part of the beauty of America is that you don't need a Master's degree to live a comfortable life. You don't need to be rich to become rich. All you need to do is earn your way to the top.

So stop listening to those people who tell you that you cannot do it. Stop listening to those people who insist that you are victims. Stop listening to those people who say that stronger government is the only way to the top. Stop sitting on the couch hoping the ACLU or the government will come to your door with free money. Stop voting for people who make you feel like a victim, and start giving your life the optimism it needs. Start living in the light of the American Dream.

50 Years Since Little Rock Nine

Ricky Walker
Staff Writer

This fall, we mark the 50th Anniversary of one of the key events in the Civil Rights movement - the integration of the public high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. This historic event was the first of its kind, where nine black students (later referred to as the Little Rock Nine) were admitted to a public high school in the deep south that had previously only been for white students.

The outrage and discrimination of this event was so bad that the nine students needed military escorts to and from each class. Now, on the

50th anniversary of this event, we must ask ourselves, "Have we learned from the mistakes of our parents?"

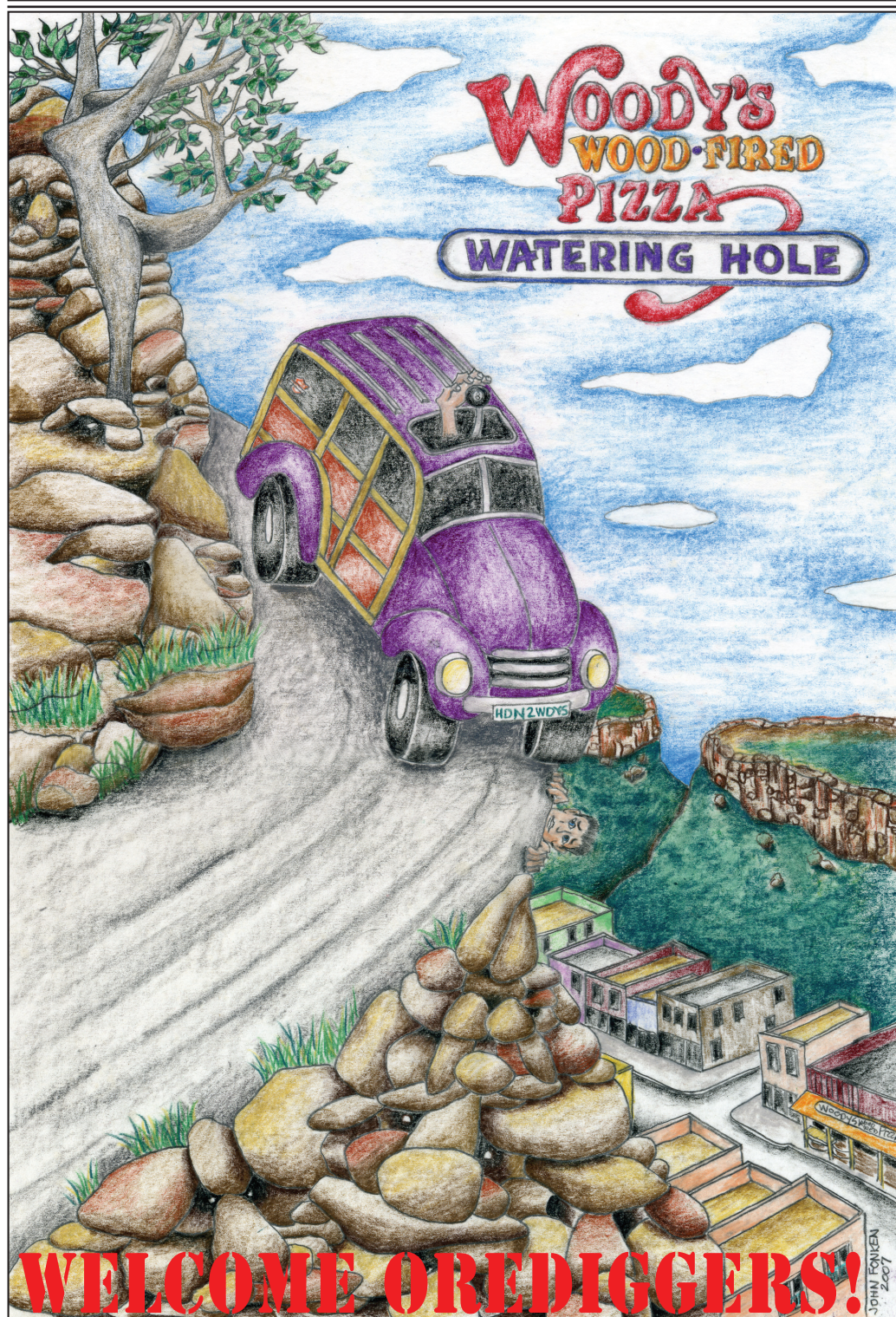
To answer this question, I turn to personal experience. The year was 2001 and I was attending a commencement ceremony at Auburn University in Alabama. During the commencement, a man by the name of Harold Franklin received an honorary Doctor of Arts degree due to the large influence he had in 1964, when he became the first black man to enroll at Auburn University.

When Mr. Franklin was presented with his degree, the audience burst into a roaring standing ovation, which lasted for a solid five minutes.

Take a moment right now to look at the clock and appreciate how long five minutes is for a standing ovation. It was truly an incredible sight.

Society has been cured of racial discrimination against African Americans. We have learned from the mistakes of our parents. If you are African American, and you feel that you have been discriminated against somehow, take a look at the pictures of the Little Rock Nine. Did it look like that?

If you feel that you have been treated unjustly, you were not a victim of discrimination, but merely a victim of one of society's many jerks. Simply do what everyone else does when they meet a jerk—shrug it off and keep smiling.



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1. Heard of Mines Internet Radio, or MIR? If not, you're missing out on awesome tunes, awesome DJs and...um... awesomeness. So head on over to <http://radio.mines.edu> right now to see what's playing!

2. Check out the pulse of Mines! Coming soon, www.minesblog.com will be your ultimate source for unofficial Mines news, kind of like the Oredigger is your source for semi-official news! You can even submit articles to the blog or become a full-on writer! Check it out!

3. Are you a programmer? Created something that's freakin' awesome? Or maybe just something that would be useful to other people (you know, Riemann sum generators or Fibonacci sequencers)? Post them at MinesApps.com (coming October 1st!) and help everyone out! If people like your software, they can even donate to you, and all proceeds will go to you-who-created-the-most-awesome-program-ever!

Concert in the Library October 19th

Ruth Wilson Francisco will perform for us on October 19, 2007. Ruth Wilson Francisco is a delightfully versatile singer. She thrills audiences with her beautiful voice and gifted interpretation. A Colorado native, she sings regularly, and maintains a private voice studio in the Cortez area. She holds the Master of Music in Voice Performance degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. For her performance she will be accompanied by pianist Nancy Thomas.

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